

AGENDA

CANTON BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 2004

GARDEN CENTER BUILDING

4:00 P.M.

Reading of the minutes of the June 9, 2004 regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Able, Inc., Councilperson Tom West, requesting to use Nimisilla Park on August 6, 7 and 8 to hold an event called Joy Fest to help the revitalization of Nimisilla Park
2. Socialist Party - USA requesting to use Nimisilla Park on Saturday, August 28, 2004, for a picnic and re-enactment of a speech given then in 1918 by Eugene Debs
3. NorthEast Area Renaissance requesting to use Nimisilla Park on Saturday, August 21, 2004, to hold a "Music and Carnival in the Park" event

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

JULY, 2004

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, July 7, 2004, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Tom Ascani, Vice President; Mr. Steve Lamiell, Member; and Mr. Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 4:13 p.m.

A motion was then made by T. Ascani to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2004, regular meeting as written. A second was made by S. Lamiell, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Able, Inc., Councilperson Tom West, requesting to use Nimisilla Park on August 6, 7 and 8 to hold an event called Joy Fest to help the revitalization of Nimisilla Park -

Mr. Andy Black, President, arrived at the beginning of the discussion on this issue.

Councilmember Tom West (Second Ward) and Mr. Curtis Perry presented the Board with information with regard to the activity they are planning for August 5th and 8th, 2004. They explained that the event was to give the community an additional activity during the Hall of Fame (HOF) activities and to be a kickoff to a rebirth of Nimisilla Park.

Councilmember West explained that he was working on getting a proposed concept plan done for improvements to the Park. He stated he would be bringing those plans to the Board at a later date. He also stated that he felt there was a huge community interest in Nimisilla Park.

In regard to the August event, Councilmember West and Mr. Perry explained to the Board that 2500 people per day were expected during the event. They also stated they understood City resources were already at their limits due to the HOF activities. They would be arranging for both private and volunteer security, help with parking cars, port-a-jons and a private firm would be putting up a stage. The event was to run from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on August 6, 7 and 8th. Money collected from the vendors would go thru Able, Inc., a not-for-profit, charitable organization and would be used to pay the costs of the event. There would also be rides at the event thru a private firm.

A motion to approve the event with an insurance requirement was made by A. Black. A second was made by S. Lamiell, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Taking notice that there were guests, the Board opened the floor for any comments.

1. Ms. Michelle Luntz and Mr. Bob Beckert addressed the Board about the problems they were having as runners in the Park System.

They explained that they prefer to run on the roadway for various reasons. Ms. Luntz runs with a dog because she feels unsafe in the parks without one, and dogs are not allowed on the track. Another reason is in the winter the road is usually cleared of snow.

However, the speed of the cars, the actions of some of the drivers, and the width of the road makes running there dangerous.

Ms. Luntz stated she would like to see the parks closed on Saturdays and Sundays until noon or the possibility of one-way traffic.

The Director stated that the County-wide Trail System that was planned to come through the park could solve the problem in the long term and that there was an asphalt track in Harmont Park that could be a place to use in the short term.

He also stated that going back to a one-way street had been talked about ten years ago; however, there was opposition to the idea from both the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the McKinley as their visitors use the park roads to get from one site to another.

Mr. Black stated he felt that the current City Council was not a supporter of one-way streets.

The Director was instructed to contact the Police Chief to see what assistance he could give with regard to speed and to check on the possibilities of closing the park on Saturday and Sunday mornings until 9:00 a.m.

The Board next gave the floor to Mr. Joe Martuccio, Law Director, who was there to discuss with the Board issues with arming the Park Police.

Mr. Martuccio reviewed with the Board many issues with the status of the Park Police. Among them was a legal opinion issued from the County Prosecutor's Office that, even though it was just an opinion, raised many questions regarding the status of Park Police along with another opinion issued by the Ohio Peace Officer's Training Commission. The County opinion questioned the Park Police's status as law enforcement officers and the properness of a City ordinance authorizing the Safety Director to Commission Park Police as law enforcement officers. The Park Police were not specifically listed in the Ohio Revised Code and the Park Commission under ORC 755 had no authority to commission police officers.

All these things raised the questions with regard to Park Police being authorized to carry weapons. The issue has been further complicated by the passage in Ohio of the carry concealed weapons law.

The Director was asked to contact the Ohio Peace Officers Training Commission to see if Park Police could be trained and certified under the security guard provisions in State Law.

Mr. Martuccio stated it may be necessary to call them something other than police in the future and to obtain additional insurance coverage.

The Board expressed that they felt a person put in the field should be armed, but that they wanted to do things in the correct way and thought they had done so. They did not wish to place the City or themselves in a bad position.

Mr. Lamiell asked Mr. Martuccio that, "When it comes to liability issues and this matter, the Board is really damned if it does and damned if it does not." Mr. Martuccio agreed that was a fair review of the Board's position.

The Director was asked to try and identify Chapter 755 Boards in the State and how they provide for security in their systems. The Director stated that in his opinion only a change in State Law that would allow ORC 755 Boards commissioning authority as it does for ORC 1545 Park Commissions would solve the problem in the long term.

All parties agreed to continue looking into the issue to ensure things were done correctly.

Tabled.

2. Socialist Party - USA requesting to use Nimisilla Park on Saturday, August 28, 2004, for a picnic and re-enactment of a speech given then in 1918 by Eugene Debs - The Director informed the Board that the date for this activity had been changed to September 18, 2004. In addition, that it was a conference by this group, but that they wanted to let the public know they were doing it.

The Board reviewed this request, and a motion to approve with no insurance requirement was made by A. Black. A second was made by S. Lamiell, and it passed by unanimous vote.

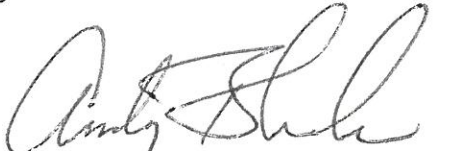
3. NorthEast Area Renaissance requesting to use Nimisilla Park on Saturday, August 21, 2004, to hold a "Music and Carnival in the Park" event - The Board had a short discussion regarding this request, and a motion was then made by A. Black to approve it with an insurance requirement. A second was made by S. Lamiell, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

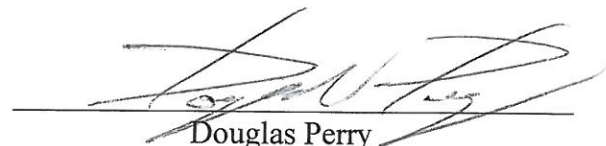
OTHER BUSINESS:

1. The Director informed the Board that he had been having a continuing problem with the Westbrook Veterans Park bathroom. The windows were being broken out on a regular basis, and his crew had suggested bricking up the windows and putting lights in the building with power from the nearby lift station building. The Director asked the Board for their thoughts on the matter. The Board instructed the Director to try the solid glass block windows again, and if the problems continued, then go ahead and brick up the windows.
2. The Director also informed the Board that the pump setup in the JFK fountain continued to be a problem and that if they had no objections, he had a plan to replace the current three floor mounted pumps with a single floating style pump like he had installed at Westbrook Veterans Park in the future. The Board had no objections.
3. The Director also informed the Board that he was still getting a complaint now and then with the storm water filtering area in Reifsnnyder Park.
4. Iglesia Luterana La Trinidad requesting to sell concessions on Sunday, July 18, 2004, in Stadium Park in the south parking lot area. This effort was to raise money for the church, a 501C3 organization.

A motion to approve this request with an insurance requirement was made by A. Black. A second was made by S. Lamiell, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



Andy Black
President

Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary